

Summary of January 21st, 2008 Meeting Moscow – Roshydromet Offices

In Attendance

Frolov
Tsaturrov
Martyschenko
Yagubov
Makshtas
Konoplev
Uttal
Dimitrieva

Participants agreed in principle that the questions of international interest regarding climate change in the Arctic (as defined by the IPCC AR4 and the 2007 Bali climate summit) are best addressed with a cooperative research approach between countries including Russia, the U.S, and others. The Tiksi observatory is a potentially critical component of an Arctic network of observatories. Participants agreed that an important emphasis is international networks such as AMAP, BSRN, GAW and UV-net. Additional countries have expressed interest in being involved in research at Tiksi including Finland and Japan.

Information Summary

- Roshydromet has 20 weather station sites with enhanced measurement capabilities that classify them as observatories
- Roshydromet expects the Tiksi Observatory to be an international facility
- Roshydromet expects the Tiksi Observatory to involve multi-institutional involvement within Russia including AARI, MGO, Typhoon, and RAS (Note: RAS is not yet an active participant)
- Roshydromet management is presently reviewing 3-year funding proposals from eight Roshydromet programs. Proposals were solicited in eight areas including (1) warnings (2) observation networks (3) climate (4) pollutants (5) marine studies (6) multi-lateral cooperation and two others.
- There is additional IPY funding being considered for operation and expeditions (not available for salaries or equipment)
- At present Russian scientists are not yet active with investigation opportunities in Tiksi
- Roshydromet is interested in the international BSRN program and has discussed procedures with WMO to expand the network with Russian routine stations that are calibrated with full BSRN sites. Note BSRN is having significant problems with support for data management and dissemination.
- Roshydromet (Moscow) has indicated that future discussions on customs, facilities contracts, personnel services contracts to support the Tiksi observatory should be directly between NOAA and the Roshydromet offices in Yakutsk

- NOAA has mechanisms in place to develop a facilities contract (to pay for items such as space, power, communications, fuel). It is the NOAA intention to support the infrastructure costs, but to make the facility freely available to U.S., Russian and international partners
- NOAA has mechanisms in place to make direct hires of Russian personnel working in Russia to assist with development of the Tiksi program (for instance technicians in Tiksi to support measurements).
- NOAA has mechanisms for long-term loans of equipments. However, Russian customs regulations require that paperwork on loaned equipment be renewed annually (October 15 for ozone sampler)
- NOAA does not have a mechanisms for gifting equipment to foreign governments
- Transfer of ownership of the Tiksi facility is a significant problem. It is assumed that the Tiksi facility is presently owned by the U.S. National Science Foundation. Transfer of ownership may involve NSF-Polar Foundation-Roshydromet. It may be necessary for Roshydromet to own the facility before NOAA can have a facilities contract with Roshydromet.
- The upcoming Russian-U.S. Science and Technology meeting in February is viewed as an opportunity to provide information. The participants will jointly prepare a Tiksi presentation to be submitted for consideration to brief both the Russian and U.S. delegates
- The upcoming Roshydromet-NOAA 2nd working group meeting on the MOU in April is a second opportunity to provide information. The participants will jointly prepare a Tiksi presentation to be submitted for consideration to brief both the Russian and U.S. delegates
- Russian customs has approved the current list of NOAA equipment submitted by Roshydromet. Development of a new list will be time consuming and long lead times should be anticipated.
- The customs process is very strict. Undue complications were introduced with the ozone sampler because (1) numbers did not match on some paperwork due to a typographical error and (2) a flash drive was in the shipment that was not on the list
- An annex needs to be developed to the Roshydromet-NOAA MOU with new signatures. A meeting should be arranged as soon as possible with possible participants Uttal, Martyschenko, Kuzmich, NOAA lawyer/contracts specialist, Roshydromet lawyer/contracts specialist.

(Issues: Methane sampler, Proposal for staged management plan, just pay customs taxes until a procedure is in place, buying equipment in Russia,